

IN THE SPECIFICATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, second paragraph, please delete the reference to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/411,547. The second paragraph should read as follows:

To avoid the problems associated with synthetic materials, natural materials may be used to repair or augment intervertebral discs. For example, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/245,955, incorporated herein by reference, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/411,547, also incorporated herein by reference, both discloses the use of natural collagen-based materials to repair and/or augment intervertebral discs.